

THE PALATKA DAILY NEWS.

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A BLUE MADONNA.

The Story of Desolina—A Miraculous Shrine at Corano.

A remarkable outbreak of religious hallucination has been spreading in Italy, near Placenza, where the mountain village of Corano has, it is alleged, been the scene of a miraculous appearance of the Madonna. To this lonely spot, destitute of railway or telegraphic communication, thousands are now flocking from all directions. Men as well as women are falling upon the ground in a delirium of supplication, kissing the stones, weeping, laughing, singing, many fainting or falling into convulsions, and some lying in a state of ecstatic trance. The particulars have been vague and imperfect; but the Stampa has now published the following from a correspondent whom it had sent to the spot. He writes: "Just a month ago a little girl 11 years old, Desolina Lasenti, grandchild of the Corano bell ringer, declared that she had seen on the mountain road of the Boscone, a most beautiful lady (una signora bella), dressed in blue, coming out of the wood, who said:

"My child, I am the Madonna. Christ, my Son, has allowed me to come once more on earth. He is weary of the iniquity of men, and I am weary of their incredulity. I will stay in this place for a while among you, and you shall come and adore me here and rebuild the oratory which was once on this spot."

"She then disappeared, but a few hours afterward all Corano knew what the girl had seen.

"Some were incredulous, but the greater number did not for a moment discuss the variety of the girl's statement. Desolina was hailed as the favorite child of the Madonna, and the whole population went out in procession to the spot at the entrance of the wood. From that moment there commenced a literal epidemic of ecstasies and visions. While I

was in the place, I saw many of these things. I saw women, young and old, married and single, I had scarcely put my foot outside the walls of Placenza before I found that nothing was spoken of by the people but the Madonna of Corano.

"I can only compare the frenzy of enthusiasm with which all rush to Corano to that of the Crusaders when about to behold Jerusalem for the first time. For miles round this village the country has the appearance of the Tuscan Maremma at the time of the unfortunate prophet of Arcidosso, David Lazzarotti. Hanging from the branches of the trees and on the hedges on all sides are offerings presented by the peasants to the miraculous shrine, which consists of a basket draped with three or four cloths, on the roadside, to the right, as you proceed toward Corano.

"Hundreds and hundreds of persons are seen laboring up the steep ascent, under the burning rays of the July sun. Some girls scramble up the bare rocks, supplicating the Virgin with loud cries to appear, until they faint with fatigue. Recovering their senses they say they hear the voice of Madonna while all present fall on the ground, kissing the earth with convulsive sobs and floods of tears. A profound impression is produced. To aggravate matters, women known to be hysterical, sing, laugh and cry, causing others to imitate them. While I write this thousands are thronging hither from the valleys of the old duchies, from Piedmont, from Liguria, from Lombardy. The number is estimated at 16,000. The authorities are now interfering, and it is high time. Several doctors who have visited the place declare that the spread of this hallucination is likely to assume very alarming proportions."

Must Thow the Caruncles off.

Washington Letter in Boston Herald. President Cleveland tells a good story of an interview he had with an anxious fellow-citizen who had called to urge upon him a more rapid decapitation of the offensive republican partisans. He was an old fellow and very much in earnest. "I'll tell you what it is, Mr. President," said he, thumping his big fist upon the arm of the chair he sat in, "we have got to get rid of the caruncles."

"What do you mean, sir," said the President, not instantly perceiving what the old gentleman was driving at.

"I tell you, sir, we have got to get rid of the caruncles," repeating himself.

"Oh, of course we have," said the President, realizing that his political friend meant the barnacles, "of course we have."

The President tells the story with much enjoyment. He often refers to the necessity of getting rid of the caruncles now.

They Were Inexperienced.

We first came upon a young farmer afoot and in somewhat of a hurry. Two or three of the fingers of his right hand were badly shattered, and he had not stopped long enough to envelop the hand in a rag. He said something about "three miles and a doctor."

Driving along for about half a mile, we came upon a dead mule in harness,

with a great splinter driven clear through him. There was a boy about 12 years of age seated on a pile of rails near by, but he was wiping blood off his head and didn't seem to hear our questions. Half a mile beyond this is a log cabin. One side was bulged in, the windows shattered, and the door in kindling wood. There was a dead dog, and four or five dead chickens between the door and the gate.

"Halloo! the house!" called the colonel, as waited at the gate. After a long minute a woman came out. She had several loose teeth, which were bleeding, and she had the look of a scared school ma'am treed by a bear.

"Been a cyclone here?" asked the colonel. "No." "Somebody shooting?" "No." "Can't be a political meeting?" "No." "Well, what in Halifax is the row, then?"

"Nuthin'," kept the old man and the boys has got some dynamite to blow up stumps with, and they are sort o' green at the business."

FLORIDA PRESS.

Ocala's new opera house is ready for business.

Mayport fishermen have not succeeded in catching a tarpon this season.

A colony of Germans from Ohio will soon be settled in Marion county.

Levy county prisoners will luxuriate in steel cells which are soon to be added to the new jail.

The Florida Grange Land Company, of Brooksville, sold \$25,000 worth of Annattaliga hammock land during the last week.

For two weeks ending Friday, there had been received by the dealers of Pensacola 12,950 red snappers, besides 4,000 pounds and 54 barrels of other varieties of fish.

An Austrian who was recently adjudged a lunatic at Brooksville, and who attracted so much attention in that town for several weeks, was removed to the State asylum Tuesday.

Ed. Merrill, who robbed the money drawers of a store in which he was clerking in Charlotte, N. C., last December, was arrested at Key West last Tuesday and taken back to Charlotte.

There were shipped from Oxford station, Sumpter county, this season 1,999 crates of vegetables, 2,127 boxes and 301 barrels of oranges, and 18 carloads of melons. The Willwood Orange Leaf thinks the section lying along the railroad for eight miles, and including five shipping points in Sumpter county, will ship, during the coming year, 75,000 crates of oranges and vegetables and 150 carloads of melons.

A new company has assumed charge of the canal being cut from St. Augustine to the Halifax river. The new company is known as the Wilmington Dredge Company, and have agreed to have the canal finished by December 1st. A powerful dredge from the Gulf coast has been added to the three already at work on the canal. A narrow gauge railroad, to run from the north end of the unfinished work to the south end, is being constructed. Two small boats to assist in the work are also being built.

Jas. F. Jackson. W. S. Jackson.

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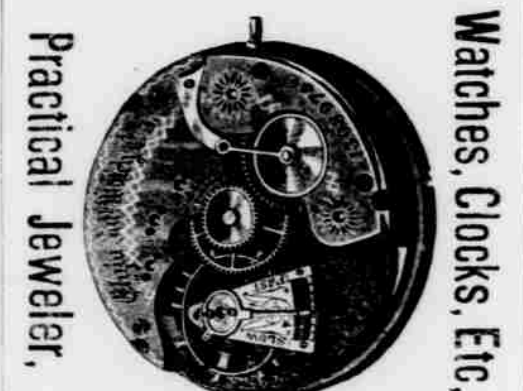
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